

**Maine Revised Statutes**  
**Title 17-A: MAINE CRIMINAL CODE**  
**Chapter 23: OFFENSES AGAINST THE FAMILY**

**§554. ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD**

1. A person is guilty of endangering the welfare of a child if that person:

A. Knowingly permits a child to enter or remain in a house of prostitution. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [2015, c. 358, §3 (AMD).]

B. Knowingly sells, furnishes, gives away or offers to sell, furnish or give away to a child under 16 years of age any intoxicating liquor, cigarettes, tobacco, air rifles, gunpowder, smokeless powder or ammunition for firearms. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [2015, c. 358, §3 (AMD).]

B-1. [2015, c. 358, §3 (RP).]

B-2. Being a parent, foster parent, guardian or other person responsible for the long-term general care and welfare of a child, recklessly fails to take reasonable measures to protect the child from the risk of further bodily injury after knowing:

(1) That the child had, in fact, sustained serious bodily injury or bodily injury under circumstances posing a substantial risk of serious bodily injury; and

(2) That such bodily injury was, in fact, caused by the unlawful use of physical force by another person.

Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [2015, c. 358, §3 (AMD).]

B-3. Being the parent, foster parent, guardian or other person having the care and custody of a child, knowingly deprives the child of necessary health care, with a result that the child is placed in danger of serious harm. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; or [2015, c. 358, §3 (AMD).]

C. Otherwise recklessly endangers the health, safety or welfare of the child by violating a duty of care or protection. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime. [2015, c. 358, §3 (AMD).]

[2015, c. 358, §3 (AMD).]

2. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that:

A. The defendant was the parent, foster parent, guardian or other similar person responsible for the long-term general care and welfare of the child under 16 years of age who furnished the child cigarettes, tobacco or a reasonable amount of intoxicating liquor in the actor's home and presence; [2015, c. 358, §3 (AMD).]

B. The defendant was a person acting pursuant to authority expressly or impliedly granted in Title 22; or [1991, c. 672, §2 (AMD).]

C. The defendant was the parent, foster parent, guardian or an adult approved by the parent, foster parent or guardian who furnished the child under 16 years of age an air rifle, gunpowder, smokeless powder or ammunition for a firearm for use in a supervised manner. [2015, c. 358, §3 (AMD).]

[2015, c. 358, §3 (AMD).]

**3.**

[ 2015, c. 358, §3 (RP) .]

## SECTION HISTORY

1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). 1975, c. 740, §71 (AMD). 1977, c. 696, §170 (AMD). 1989, c. 445, §7 (AMD). 1991, c. 672, §§1,2 (AMD). 1995, c. 263, §§1,2 (AMD). 1995, c. 694, §§C3,4 (AMD). 1995, c. 694, §E2 (AFF). 1999, c. 11, §§1,2 (AMD). 2001, c. 429, §§1-3 (AMD). 2005, c. 373, §§1,2 (AMD). 2015, c. 358, §3 (AMD).

---

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 127th Maine Legislature and is current through October 1, 2016. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.